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# CITY PAGES

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baseball player



## *The Shining of* **MARK HAMBURGER**

BY JOHN ROSENGREN



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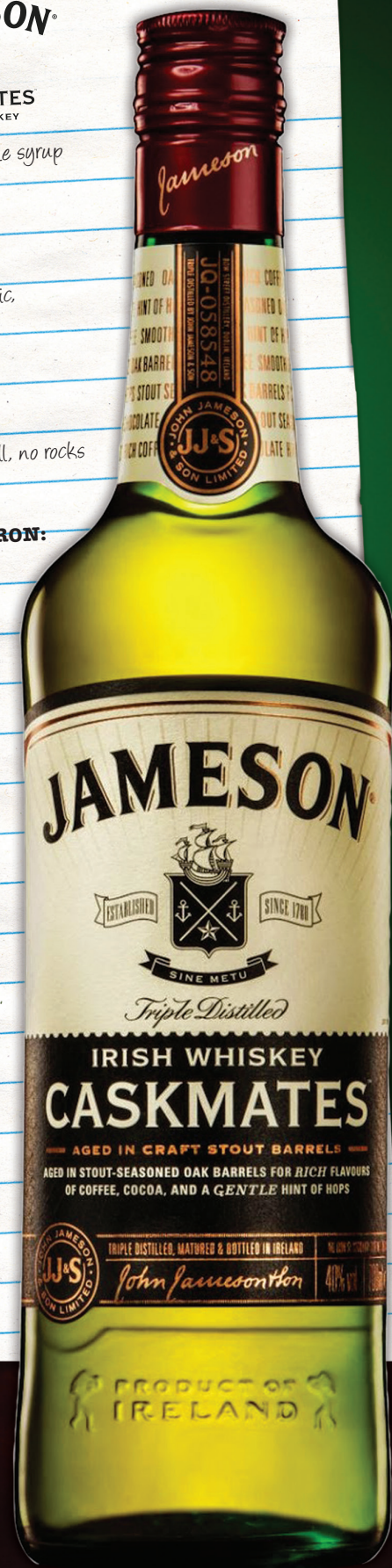
**COOLEST/MOST FUN REASON FOR CELEBRATION BY A PATRON:** A couple that was approved for their adoption for their current adopted son's little brother.

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## THE SHORTLIST



Gwen Stefani's classics outshine new pop flops at Xcel  
citypages.com/slideshows

LISA PERSSON

## THE STAT SHEET

**108**

Days mosquito season now lasts in Minnesota, up from 74 in the 1980s due to global warming

**7,000**

Number of backpacks given away by Simon Says Give, a charity founded by 13-year-old Mandi Simon

**\$800 million**

Annual buying power of the Twin Cities' African immigrants

**50**

Number of Republican national security officials who signed a letter saying a President Donald Trump would put America at risk

“Could we turn off all the lights and maybe he might think we aren't home?”

Reader Gareth Aanerud, responding to “Ah shit, Donald Trump is coming to Minneapolis,” at citypages.com.

## PREDATORS

**COMCAST**, the Anti-Christ of Commerce, plans to add a new scheme to its portfolio of evil. It wants to charge customers extra to keep their information private.

The company fills a handsome purse by selling your info to spammers, charlatans, and others hoping to litter your inbox. But the FCC is considering rules banning cable and internet providers from charging more for privacy.

Comcast objects, arguing that it needs to charge privacy fans more so it can offer discounts to others.

## POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

**DONALD TRUMP** says Minnesota's having ‘tremendous problems’ [VIDEO]  
Ah shit, **DONALD TRUMP'S** coming to Minneapolis

Woman to **MINNEAPOLIS STREET HARASSER**: ‘What kind of man does it, though?’ [VIDEO]

Top 10 **UNDER-THE-RADAR BURGERS** you need to try

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# A MAN CRIES WOLF

How not to accuse a cop of police abuse

On April 11, a St. Paul police officer pulled over 27-year-old Franchise McWright for a cracked windshield. He climbed out of the squad car, went up to the driver's side window to ask for his license and proof of insurance, and was immediately accused of pulling a gun.

The cop, identified only as an Officer Finnegan, stated the obvious: He was not pointing a gun. McWright handed over his license and his cell phone — which had a picture of his insurance on it — and Finnegan took them back to his squad to verify.

That's when McWright poked his head out of the window and accused Finnegan of stealing his phone, according to the criminal complaint later filed against him. Finnegan assured McWright that he just needed to look up his insurance and that he'd get the phone back soon. McWright kept yelling out the window,

accusing Finnegan of illegally searching through the phone.

Finnegan soon returned to McWright's side to give him a ticket for the cracked windshield and McWright again accused the officer of pointing his gun at him, the complaint says. McWright complained of feeling threatened. He said he feared for his life, and that the traffic stop was giving him PTSD. He asked to see a medic as well as Finnegan's supervisor.

Finnegan called for an ambulance and Sgt. Stephen Lentsch. While McWright got checked out by medics, Finnegan snapped some pictures of the windshield.

McWright yelled out, allegedly accusing Finnegan of illegally searching through his car and stealing things from it. The sergeant tried to calm him down, explaining that Finnegan was only taking pictures of the cracked windshield to support the citation.

Later that same day, McWright filed

an official complaint with the St. Paul Police Department, accusing Finnegan of pulling a gun, stealing and searching his cell phone, and searching his car. He demanded that Finnegan be disarmed and suspended.

Unfortunately for McWright, there was dash cam footage of the entire stop. It showed that Finnegan never drew his gun from its holster, that he never made a single threat, and that he never entered McWright's car while photographing the windshield.

St. Paul Police then pressed charges against McWright for knowingly making false accusations against a cop, a gross misdemeanor.

City Attorney Samuel Clark says cases like this are extremely rare. His office hasn't seen one like it in at least a couple years.

That's probably because in-car cameras almost always capture what happens during traffic stops, and most people would hesitate to outright lie about something that could be easily disproven by hitting the playback button.

"There are differing opinions about police interactions all the time, but this one stood out when the in-car camera



RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Franchise Baby McWright accused a cop of pulling a gun on him, stealing his phone, raiding his car, and causing him to suffer PTSD.

showed the exact opposite encounter and completely exonerated the officers of any wrongdoing," says St. Paul Police spokesman Mike Ernster. —SUSAN DU

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# The Barber of Baghdad

Iraq War veteran Chris Pomeleo couldn't keep a job. So he hired himself.

Chris Pomeleo spent spring 2007 locked inside a gutted Baghdad shopping mall, thinking about the snipers outside.

Gunmen perched on rooftops and the streets belonged to "Mad Mortarmen," murderous militants who'd rigged up mortar tubes on the back of pickup trucks like something out of *Mad Max*. They shelled the mall repeatedly.

Troops in Pomeleo's squadron never went out during the day — a lesson learned from casualties suffered by the unit they'd replaced.

At 28, Pomeleo was older than most of his comrades and had experience in the tech field. He was put on computer duty, tracking troop movements on radio and live video feeds. When troops came under fire, or isolated a group of enemies, Pomeleo called in air assaults. When one of their vehicles drove over a bomb, Pomeleo called for a medevac to rescue survivors. Or to collect the dead.

Pomeleo had arrived as part of the "surge" sent to smother the embers of a civil war. With 126 soldiers killed, May 2007 was the deadliest month of the war for America. It was Pomeleo's first month in Iraq.

A friend back home sent Pomeleo a care package containing a barber's kit. There, in the shell of a shopping mall — and later at one of Saddam Hussein's abandoned palaces — Pomeleo set up shop as the squadron's unofficial hair guy.

"I just figured it out," he says. "After a while, it started to flow. I enjoyed doing it. It was kind of an escape."

The barber's chair became a therapist's

couch for soldiers coming in off night missions. Pomeleo would put on music — Amy Winehouse's *Back to Black* album was a hit — and wait for a line of guys looking for a trim and some conversation.

Some wanted to talk about the war. Others blabbed about home to take their mind off what they'd just survived.

**"I didn't ever want my sexuality to determine my personality."**

A lot of Pomeleo's fellow troops knew he was gay. Though he served in the era of "don't ask, don't tell," squadron members didn't seem to care. If anything, Pomeleo got more trouble from religious, conservative family members back home. His brothers-in-arms knew it was his eyes on the screen, guiding them home safely each night.

Other soldiers who were gay but kept it a secret sought Pomeleo out. They envied his comfort in his own skin.

"I didn't ever want my sexuality to determine my personality," he says. "I'm not ultramacho. I'm not ultra-anything."

After his tour was up, Pomeleo struggled adjusting to life back home in Atlanta. He "failed a couple times in life," enrolling in, then bolting from a design school. He

took jobs hawking phones for Verizon, answering customer service calls. He drank too much. He was a shitty boyfriend, flashing a temper that roiled just under the surface.

In 2010 Pomeleo left Atlanta, seeking a fresh start in Minneapolis, where he'd lived from age three to 13. He got back into the barber business, finding work at a "really, really popular" shop and building a roster of clients. He got a hold of his drinking and started seeing a therapist at the VA hospital to talk his way through "sick shit" he'd seen in the war.

Just when things were coming back together, Pomeleo was suddenly fired last year. The shop owner approached him one day after work and said, "I don't understand your kind." Being gay wasn't an issue in the army. Pomeleo managed to find discrimination in the hairstyling business.

He talked to a client, a lawyer, who told Pomeleo he had an open-and-shut lawsuit — and why he shouldn't bring it.

"You could pursue this," the lawyer told him. "Or you could use that energy and be successful."

Try smashingly successful. Last summer, Pomeleo opened Prohibition Barbers in the basement space of Sempole Mansion near Stevens Square. He's never advertised, and you can't even see the barbershop door from the street.

Exactly one year after Prohibition opened, Pomeleo was booked solid. He'll clear six figures this year, with the only assistance coming from Bertha Mae, his cheerful, bowling ball-headed pitbull.

Pomeleo's diverse rolodex has him



Mike Mullen

keeping ex-Special Forces men high and tight while navigating androgyny for LGBT customers. One day last week, he gave a slick boy cut to a client with a feminine appearance and a man's name. "God I needed that," the customer said, immediately booking another appointment.

Pomeleo and his next customer passed time with cordial small talk until the client started talking about his brother, who'd been tossed from the Army after a DUI.

Pomeleo asked a knowing, poignant question about the client's father. Its answer is the sort of thing that doesn't leave the shop.

Pomeleo knows a couple of veterans who are in barber school. He's hoping to get them set up in his rustic space by next year. If they start racking up clients, and it gets crowded, Pomeleo is thinking about expanding.

"I remember not wanting to be a statistic," Pomeleo says, thinking back to his dark days. "I really feel all the suicides among vets, soldiers, who can't seem to get it together, and I want to be a beacon of hope. You can figure it out." **CP**

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Follow Mike on Twitter: @mikemullen\_

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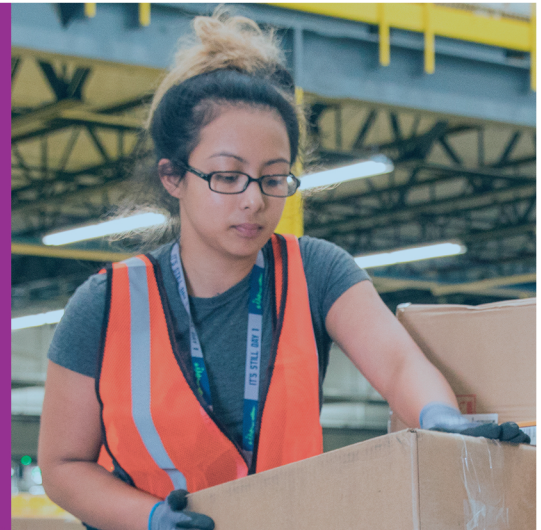
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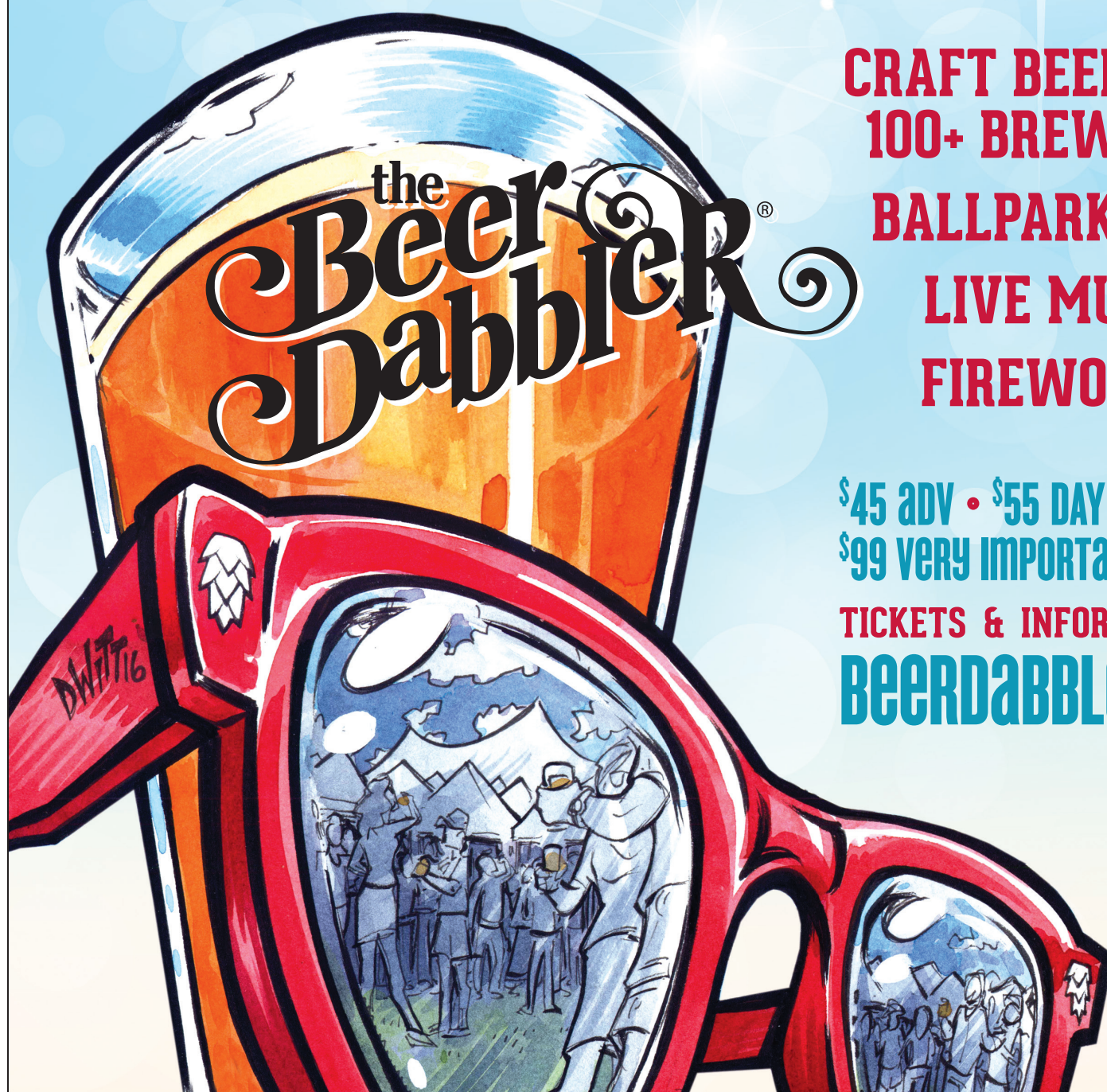
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# *The Shining of* **MARK HAMBURGER**

BY JOHN ROSENGREN

**F**our hours before game time inside the St. Paul Saints clubhouse, players and coaches mill about. They subscribe to an unwritten dress code: T-shirts, gym shorts, mandals. The players model compact muscles and short hair — walking clichés, nearly indistinguishable.

Until Mark Hamburger arrives.

He's tall and scrawny, wearing flannel, jeans, barefoot but for flip-flops. A backward Bakersfield Blaze cap is

stuffed over his long brown hair, scruffy beard, pilot sunglasses. He's carrying a longboard.

"Hey, how you doing?" he says, extending a hand. "You want another water or a Coke?" he asks, spotting my empty cup.

A moment later, he returns with a cold bottle of water and leads me out to the dugout. I have not yet asked him a question, but already he has told me a good deal about himself.

— Photography by Colin Michael Simmons —





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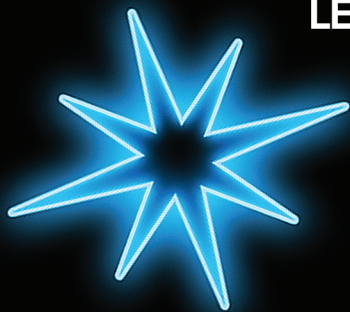
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Mark Hamburger, this summer's star pitcher for the St. Paul Saints, is like no other ballplayer I've met. He reminds me of two other iconoclastic pitchers, Jim Bouton and Bill Lee — smart, thinks for himself, unafraid to speak his mind. At 29, Hamburger's still finding his way, still writing his story. And he's quite the author.

Here's a guy with a 90+ mph fastball who prefers yoga to lifting weights, Whole Foods to McDonald's, the Tao over Sports Illustrated, his '89 Oldsmobile station wagon over a new Audi.

He's comfortable talking about the way a Higher Power works in his life, is not carrying a cell phone, and lugs a hard-shell blue Samsonite on road trips. Other than the fact he lives in his parents' basement, he's far from your typical millennial, let alone professional ballplayer.

The CliffsNotes on Hamburger's career read like this:

Local junior college flunkout signed by the Twins at an open tryout. Traded to the Rangers, rose quickly through the minors to join the team for its 2011 World Series run. Demoted to minors, twice busted for smoking weed, saddled with a 50-game suspension. Graduated Hazelden and did a stint with the Saints in 2013. Resigned with the Twins, spent all of last summer at AAA Rochester, but passed on the chance to pitch as a reliever in the majors because it wasn't what he wanted. Wound up back with his hometown team.

The full story is even better.

Hamburger perches on the back of the bench in the Saints' dugout. A flotilla of white clouds sails across the blue ocean sky. The night before, Hamburger won his seventh game in seven decisions. He has already done an hour of Vinyasa yoga as part of his recovery regimen and is at ease.

"The defining moment, my biggest downfall, was those two failed drug tests within two months," he says. He looks me in the eye, his Confederate grays unblinking. "Everything caught up with me. It's exactly what I needed."

Hamburger does not litter his words with "um," "like," and "you know." He speaks in complete sentences — sincere, smart, articulate.

He started smoking weed as a teen



"My biggest downfall was those two failed drug tests in two months."

and kept smoking into the big leagues. But somewhere along the way it stopped providing relief and began causing problems. In Center City, he surrendered and started to put things right in his life. His left arm, his nonpitching arm, has become a metaphor for how he lives now.

He pushes up a sleeve to reveal a kaleidoscope of interlinked geometric shapes. Each represents a loved one: his older sister, his two grandfathers, three friends who passed away. The design is a work in progress. He plans to add his mom and dad along with his grandmothers. "This arm I created to honor friends and keep people in my memory," he says.

Hamburger points to the largest shape, which looks like a pattern drawn by a Spirograph. "Picture a diamond a foot long inside each one of us," Hamburger explains the tat's significance. "Each diamond has 1,000 facets, yet each facet gets covered with dirt and tar. Every day I have something to clean, something new to rid myself of or something to polish."

He looks at me with an open, guileless face.

"My intention is that I always have room to grow. It is the job of the soul to clean each facet until all of them shine brilliantly, reflecting the colors of the rainbow."

Can you imagine having a conversation like this with Joe Mauer?

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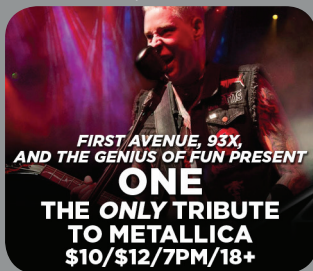
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10/25 **MAC MILLER - THE DIVINE FEMININE TOUR** *18+*  
10/26 & 27 **ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES** w/ DIANE COFFEE *18+*  
10/28 **YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND** AND PERT NEAR SANDSTONE *18+*  
10/29 **LUCERO** w/ CORY BRANAN *18+*  
10/30 **AN EVENING WITH PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT, PERFORMING "SUBSTANCE" - JOY DIVISION & NEW ORDER** w/ DJ JAKE RUDH (OF TRANSMISSION) *18+*  
11/01 **GOOD CHARLOTTE AND THE STORY SO FAR** w/ FOUR YEAR STRONG, BIG JESUS *ALL AGES*  
11/02 **THE NAKED AND FAMOUS** w/ XYLO, THE CHAIN GANG OF 1974 *18+*  
11/03 **WATSKY - X INFINITY TOUR** w/ WITT LOWRY, DAYE JACK, CHUKWUDI HODGE *ALL AGES*  
11/04 **MAJID JORDAN** *ALL AGES*  
11/05 **BLACKBERRY SMOKE, LIKE AN ARROW TOUR** *18+*  
11/06 **JAI WOLF** w/ JERRY FOLK *18+*  
11/10 **REBELUTION** w/ HIRIE *18+*  
11/12 **HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES** w/ CABINET *18+*  
11/17 **AARON LEWIS - THE SINNER TOUR** *18+*  
11/18 **JAMES VINCENT MCMORROW** *18+*  
12/01 **JJ GREY & MOFRO** *18+*  
12/08 **THE 37TH ANNUAL JOHN LENNON TRIBUTE** FT. CURTISS A WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS *18+*  
1/20 **THE DEVIL MAKES THREE** *18+*  
3/18 **PASSENGER** *ALL AGES*

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- 8/10 **PRINZE GEORGE** w/ LADY MIDNIGHT *18+*  
8/11 **WHALE IN THE THAMES RECORD RELEASE PARTY** w/ JIM RUIZ SET, RICH MATTSO AND THE NORTHSTARS, LOVERS ON THE BALCONY *18+*  
8/12 **BEAT THE HEAT: OFFICIAL EVEN FURTHUR PRE-PARTY** *18+*  
8/13 **KICK CD RELEASE SHOW** w/ VAUDEVILLE, EAGLE TRACE, LAVENDER DAUGHTER *18+*  
8/14 **COLIN CAMPBELL & THE SHACKLETONS** w/ LET YOURSELF GO, LAST IMPORT, NEWSTRANGE *18+*  
8/15 **'LAND SPEED RECORD' 35TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW FT. A PERFORMANCE BY GRANT HART AND THE GLANDOLINIAN ARMY BAND** w/ A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH NOTABLE TWIN CITIES PUNK PIONEERS *18+*  
8/16 **ZIG ZAGS** w/ FRANCE CAMP, TONGUE PARTY *18+*  
8/17 **GAELLYN LEA - EP RELEASE SHOW** w/ MINOR MOON *18+*  
8/18 **HIBRIA** w/ NOBLE BEAST, AETHERIC, LORDS OF THE TRIDENT *18+*  
8/19 **NESS NITE ALBUM RELEASE SHOW** w/ DIZZY FAE, METASOTA, DESTINY ROBERTS, DJ BVCKWOODS, MICAMARYJANE *18+*  
8/20 **GRAVEYARD CLUB CD RELEASE SHOW** w/ POSH LOST, LUNAR BEDROOMS *18+*  
8/21 **WEAVES** w/ RUPERT ANGELEYES *18+*

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**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17**  
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**WILCO**  
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at HISTORIC HALL'S ISLAND  
\$50/4:30PM/ALL AGES



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25**  
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w/ SOJA, FORTUNATE YOUTH  
at the CABOOZE OUTDOOR PLAZA  
\$32.50/\$35 DAY OF SHOW/4:30PM/18+



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**  
**SLEIGH BELLS**  
at the FINE LINE  
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY  
8PM/18+



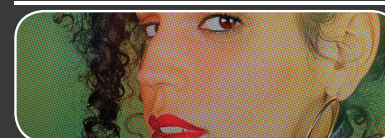
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**  
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\$20/\$71.50 VIP/5PM/ALL AGES



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
JAM, FIRST AVENUE, AND 89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENT  
**JENNY LEWIS**  
'RABBIT FUR COAT' ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
w/ THE WATSON TWINS  
at STATE THEATRE  
\$35/6:30PM/ALL AGES



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**  
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS  
**WHITNEY**  
w/ HOOPS  
at the TRIPLE ROCK  
\$15/7:30PM/18+



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**  
RADIO K PRESENTS  
**XENIA RUBINOS**  
at the ICEHOUSE  
\$10/\$12/10:30PM/21+

- 9/10 **PROF OUTDOORS 3 FT. PROF** w/ HOPSIN, GRIEVES, SA-ROC, J. PLAZA, DWYNNELL ROLAND, WHY KHALIQ, TIIMIIIIIP at Cabooze Outdoor Plaza  
9/10 **BLIND PILOT** w/ RIVER WHYLESS at Fine Line  
9/10 **HASAN MINHAJ: HOMECOMING KING** at the Woman's Club  
9/11 **BAND OF SKULLS** w/ MURDER SHOES at Fine Line  
9/12 **TEGAN & SARA** at State Theatre  
9/15 **WEEN** at Roy Wilkins Auditorium  
9/16 **THE DEAR HUNTER: THE FINAL ACT TOUR** w/ EISLEY, GAVIN CASTLETON at Fine Line  
9/17 **FESTIVAL PALOMINO FT. TRAMPLED BY TURTLES, THE ARCS, ANDREW BIRD, JAKE BUGG, HOUNDMOUTH, FRIGHTENED RABBIT, ELEPHANT REVIVAL, AND MORE** at Canterbury Park  
9/17 **GOLD PANDA** w/ OPEN MIKE EAGLE at Triple Rock  
9/18 **HIGHLY SUSPECT** at Fine Line  
9/24 **KT TUNSTALL** w/ MAYAENI at Fine Line  
9/25 **TOKYO POLICE CLUB** w/ THE ELWINS at the Fine Line  
9/28 **CAR SEAT HEADREST** w/ LUCY DACUS at The Cedar  
10/03 **TOBACCO** w/ HIGH TIDES, ODONIS ODONIS at Triple Rock  
10/04 **PREOCCUPATIONS** w/ METHYL ETHEL at Fine Line  
10/07 **GLASS ANIMALS** at Myth Nightclub



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8/11 **COLIN STETSON & SARAH NEUFELD DUO** W/ DOSH & GHOSTBAND 7:30PM

8/12 **TRAILER TRASH** 8PM

8/13 **TUNES 'N' TOONS BRUNCH** CLASSIC CARTOONS + DJ'S SPINNING VINYL 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

8/13 **LEMMY / MOTÖRHEAD TRIBUTE SHOW** W/ IMPALER, VIRGIN WHORES, FRET RATTLES, DAWN OF VALOR, TRIM REAPER, THE VIOLENT SHIFTERS, BAD IDEA 8PM

8/14 **OUTLAW BRUNCH** FT. THE BOOTSTRAP FAMILY BAND 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

8/17 **MOTLEY 2 - MÖTLEY CRÜE TRIBUTE / APPETITE FOR ZACCARDI - GUNS N' ROSES TRIBUTE** 8PM

8/18 **KID DAKOTA / FATHOM LANE** 8PM

8/19 **NO FUNERAL** W/ BLOOD FOLKE, BISENTO, DJ TEACE (METAL TRIVIA FOR CONCERT TIX) 8PM

8/20 **TUNES 'N' TOONS BRUNCH** CLASSIC CARTOONS + DJ'S SPINNING VINYL 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

8/20 **SIDEWALK CHALK** W/ DANAMI AND THE BLUE, JAEDYN JAMES & THE HUNGER 8PM

8/21 **JAZZ BRUNCH** FT. JAMES BUCKLEY TRIO WITH MIKE LEWIS, JAMES BUCKLEY, MIGUEL HURTADO 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

8/24 **BASEMENT BREW / THE CONFUSED BROTHERS BAND / WAVY MAZE** 7:30PM

8/25 **LITTLE FEVERS** W/ CROSSING GUARDS, P-PL 7:30PM

8/26 **THE MUFFS** W/ THE MAGNOLIAS, TEENAGE MOODS, TREVORAMO FA FA FA 8PM

8/27 **TUNES 'N' TOONS BRUNCH** CLASSIC CARTOONS + DJ'S SPINNING VINYL 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

8/27 **JAKE JONES 'FROM TIME TO TIME' RELEASE SHOW** W/ WOODFERD, THE LAST JACKSON 8PM

8/28 **OUTLAW BRUNCH** FT. WILKINSON JAMES 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/ALL AGES)

8/29 **PARKER MILLSAP** 7:30PM

8/30 **DANNY BARNES** 7:30PM

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“My intention is that I always have room to grow. It is the job of the soul to clean each facet until all of them shine brilliantly, reflecting the colors of the rainbow.”

Nobody aspires to peak with the Saints, who play in the American Association, one of the lowest rungs of minor league baseball. Players see their time here as a foothold on their way to larger ambitions. For a lucky few that means the major leagues.

Yet here's Mark Hamburger, who's already spent time in the majors, where he appeared in eight innings over five games and played at the minor's highest levels, pitching for the modest Saints.

“I'm surprised he's still here,” says manager George Tsamis, briefly a major league pitcher himself. “He deserves to be in Triple-A, but I'm glad he's with us.”

Of course he is. Hamburger's the team ace, with a record of 11-2. He's led the league in wins, complete games, innings pitched, and winning percentage.

Hamburger has the speed — he throws in the low 90s — and the control — 70 percent of his pitches have been for strikes — that major league scouts value. The consensus seems to be that it's only a matter of time

before he returns to The Show. Yet for now, he's here because, well, he's just not like other ballplayers.

Steve Hamburger remembers the first time he played catch with his son. Mark was three. “He threw the ball to me, just a rocket, straight and right at me,” Steve says. “I threw it back to him, and he did it again. Usually kids throwing for the first time are pretty dorky, but I could tell from those first two tosses that he was a natural.”

Mark is the third of Steve and Cheryl's three kids. He did everything full speed, even walking in his sleep. When there was a call home from the school, they knew it was a teacher complaining about Mark. He rebelled at school, church, everywhere.

He liked sports but was skinny and did not appear to be the next Dave Winfield. He played basketball, rugby, tennis, football and, of course, baseball, though he didn't make the Mounds View High varsity team until his senior year. That fall, as a wide

receiver, he caught 16 touchdown passes, a testament to his budding athleticism. He grew eight inches from the end of his junior year to graduation.

Pro scouts weren't exactly lighting up his phone, and his grades weren't going to get him into Vanderbilt University, so he wound up at Mesabi Range College. There, he shone on the mound (11-0, 0.65 ERA) but not in the classroom (he was academically ineligible to enroll a second year).

So in the summer of 2007, Hamburger and a buddy impulsively attended a Twins tryout at the Metrodome.

The Twins liked what they saw: a 6-foot-4 20-year-old who hit 93 mph on the radar gun six times in a row. Within days, he was pitching for their rookie team in the Gulf Coast League.

Hamburger hasn't cut his hair for more than a year, when he buzzed it close to his scalp for the Twins' spring training. Knowing he already had “an outrageous personality,” he did not

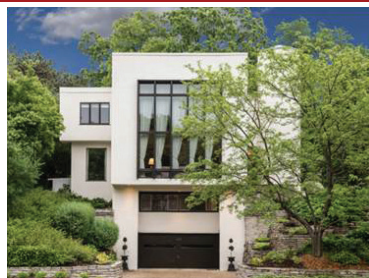
want his long hair to compound any misconceptions of him in the conservative organization.

He has let it grow since, more than 16 months, and it's taking on a personality of its own; long, light brown locks that would make Samson blush. At first glance, that wild mane could give the wrong impression. Before I met Hamburger, Tsamis, the Saints manager, told me, “Don't let the hair fool you. He knows what he's doing.”

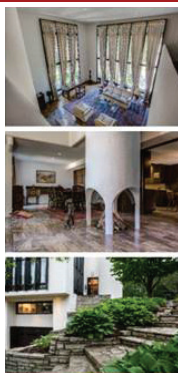
He's right. Most ballplayers traveling through Fargo, Winnipeg, Lincoln on the American Association circuit can tell you where to find the best burger, the cheapest pitcher of beer, the preferred strip club. When Hamburger hits a new town, he scouts out the co-op grocery, an organic restaurant, and a yoga studio, while riding on his longboard.

At home, where he lives with his parents in Shoreview, he enjoys hanging out with them in the backyard overlooking a nature preserve, chilling with teammates after a game at the Ox Cart or Bulldog, playing

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Those who know Hamburger use different terms to describe him: free spirit, goofball, hippie. But they mean it in a good way.

His agent, Billy Martin Jr. (yes, the son of *that* Billy Martin), tells it this way: Once Hamburger showed up on his radar, he asked a friend, Rangers pitching coach Mike Maddux, what he thought of Hamburger.

"He looked at me real seriously and said, 'That kid is messed up.' Uh-oh, I thought. What's wrong here? 'Yep, that kid is messed up in a really good way.'"

Among the Saints, everyone agrees Hamburger's a great teammate. He could be aloof and arrogant. After all, he's been to The Show. He could lord that over his teammates, drop names like those of former teammates Josh Hamilton, Mike Napoli, and Michael Young. But it's not like that.

Hamburger's the guy singing and dancing in the clubhouse. He choreographs home run celebrations in the dugout. He works with younger players. "Guys love having him around," Saints pitching coach Kerry Ligtenberg says. "He's always trying to pick them up."

When the team left on a June road trip to Sioux City, Hamburger wasn't scheduled to pitch. The plan was for him to stay in St. Paul. Instead, he drove down to be with his teammates. They appreciated that.

When catcher Maxx Garrett joined the team a week into the season, the Washington state native didn't know anyone in town and didn't have a car. Hamburger became his chauffeur. He also gave him a powered longboard so he could get around on his own.

Eddie Gaurdado famously quipped, "What? I was traded for a Hamburger?"

One night, when Hamburger drove Garrett home after a game, Garrett discovered he had forgotten his keys and locked himself out. Hamburger invited Garrett to stay at his house. "When I woke up, he had fixed eggs, oatmeal with blueberries, and orange juice," Garrett said. "It was like being at a B & B."

In August 2008, Hamburger's second summer with the Twins organization, pitching for Elizabethton in the Appalachian League, he was traded to the Texas Rangers for Eddie Guardado, who famously quipped, "What? I was traded for a hamburger?"

Hamburger climbed through the Rangers' minor league ranks with stops in Clinton, Iowa; Hickory, North Carolina; Bakersfield, California; Frisco and Round Rock, Texas, until he

made his Major League debut on August 31, 2011.

He has a poster of himself delivering a pitch in his red Rangers jersey, but does not remember the details. He was too jacked on adrenaline. (He retired Tampa Bay 1-2-3 in a single inning of work.)

Disappointed not to be put on the Rangers' playoff roster, Hamburger consoled himself in Colorado during the offseason smoking bales of marijuana.

The following summer, he was back in the minor leagues, pitching for the Rangers' AAA team in Round Rock, but not very well. They released him in June.

The San Diego Padres picked him up,

**"I like the slower  
life," he says.  
"It creates a  
mindful practice."**



but released him in less than a month. Houston claimed him off waivers, and he finished the season with AAA Oklahoma City.

When he failed his second drug test in February 2013, Houston promptly released him. Hazelden picked him up.

Hamburger initially resisted rehab, but deep down, he knew he had a problem. So did his parents. Steve Hamburger could see how weed was controlling his son.

"Every time he hopped in the car and drove down the street, I was a wreck, praying 'God, don't let anything happen to him.'"

The healing began at Hazelden. There, father and son had a long, meaningful conversation. "It was the first time in 10 years that we had talked for more than 10 minutes," Steve says. "There was something settled in his mind. I could tell he had accepted that he needed to change."

At the end of Mark's 30-day stay, the treatment staff recommended aftercare, noting that the majority of people who did not attend aftercare went back to using drugs. That bit of advice did not have the intended effect upon Hamburger. It simultaneously offended and inspired him.

"Did you just tell me if I don't give you more money I will fail?" he asked. "That gave me more incentive."

He signed with the Saints for the 2013 season, on a mission to stay clean and revive his career. Because the Saints play in a league independent of Major League Baseball, his 50-game suspension did not apply.

Despite a 6-8 record, Hamburger put up some respectable numbers, including a 3.26 earned run average. He also demonstrated durability, setting a club record for most complete games in a season (five), tops in the league.

His performance was good enough to impress the brass across the river. The Twins purchased his contract and assigned him to its AA team in New Britain, Connecticut, to start the 2014 season. He pitched eight games after serving his suspension and was promoted to AAA Rochester.

Hamburger spent the balance of the 2014 summer and the entire 2015 season in Rochester, only a rung away from the major leagues. He could have returned to Rochester this year with a very good chance of being promoted to the parent club, but it would have been as a reliever. He wanted to be a starter.

So he parted ways with the Twins last November. He had a chance to sign with the Chicago Cubs, who gave him a tryout,



Hamburger said "No thanks" to the Twins, Cubs, and Marlins.

and with the Miami Marlins, who wanted to sign him after he won the Saints' opening game this year. But Mark said "No thanks."

Not many guys would have the cojones to buck opportunity that way, but Hamburger was intent upon doing it his way this time, more as an act of personal integrity than outright defiance.

He does not want to simply fill a role with a team. He doesn't want to be shuffled around at the whim of an organization. He wants to be a starter, like his favorite pitcher of all time, Satchel Paige, the rubber-armed wonder renowned for his control and ability to pitch until tomorrow.

"Satch was a starter," Hamburger says. "Only starters can get a no-hitter or pitch a perfect game. When I think of pitching, I think of going nine innings. I think in terms of pitching complete games."

This is anathema to the current dogma limiting pitch counts, which has rendered complete games a rarity. Nowadays, pitchers rarely complete games (only six MLB pitchers completed four games last season), and throwing more than 110 pitches a game is considered Herculean.

Not surprisingly, Hamburger does not subscribe to this philosophy. "I am completely against pitch counts," he says. "I should be able to throw 140 pitches if needed."

Through his first 12 starts, Hamburger has pitched four complete games and thrown 120 pitches or more in four outings.

While many pitchers spend hours lifting weights, believing bigger is better, Hamburger attributes his arm stamina

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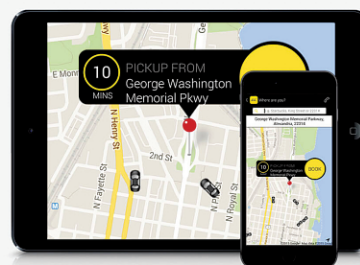


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food over a bonfire, washing clothes on an old-fashioned washboard, and queuing up LPs on a record player instead of listening to music through his phone. "I like the slower life," he says. "It creates a mindful practice."

He has been spending his down-time working with his brother Paul, a master welder and carpenter, on restoring a 1960 camper. He plans to move out of his parents' house at the end of the season and take up residency in the camper, breaking it in with a trip up to the North Shore. "I'm going to practice tiny living," he says.

"I've let go of that. Being a millionaire now has no allure."

to stretching and Visnaya yoga, which he started practicing seriously post-Hazelden. He's lucky that he has never had a serious arm injury. "You can't break Gumby," he likes to say.

It's not that he sees himself as invincible. He's suffered enough to know that's not the case. It's just that he believes he can make it back to the big leagues on his terms.

They say abusing drugs stunts emotional growth, and that recovery allows addicts to resume growing up. Contrasting the Mark Hamburger of 2013, during his last stint with the Saints, with the Mark Hamburger of today provides a measure of newfound maturity.

"He's done a lot of growing up," says pitching coach Ligtenberg. "Three years ago, he was not as polished. This year, he is locating his fastball inside and outside. He is taking it more seriously. He's prepared for his starts. He's not just throwing hard but has become more of a pitcher, picking his spots, changing speed."

The maturity has manifested itself in his personal life as well. Steve Hamburger says he and his wife enjoy having Mark at home now.

"He's gotten a little bit of the beast out of him," Steve says. "I don't have to worry about him any more."

The kid whom his dad says used to move at 100 mph has learned to appreciate life in the slow lane. Mark prefers cooking

Mark's interactions with fans also show how he's matured. In Rochester, he sang the national anthem on Fan Appreciation Night, the Red Wings' final home game of the season. Afterward, the fans saluted him with a standing ovation.

Another night in Rochester, he signed autographs for 45 minutes while fans waited for the start of a postgame concert. "Nobody else does this," one Red Wings fan told him. "We really appreciate this."

At CHS Field, Hamburger catches the ceremonial pitches on nights when he's not scheduled to start, returning the ball with a hug to the honorary pitcher.

He runs the errand of delivering a batting helmet to the kid sitting with the ball boy down the right field line. But instead of trotting back to his teammates, he squats to chat with the kid for a few minutes. On his way back between innings, he pauses to greet fans he recognizes in the front row.

At the end of the game, when Saints players toss oversized stuffed balls into the stands, Hamburger points to a fan behind the protective screen above the dugout and throws the ball playfully toward him, knowing it will bounce back off the screen. He laughs, then goes around the screen and flips the souvenir to the fan.

Maturity has also altered his ambition. When he was younger, big money was the draw. "The goal used to be about going to the big leagues and getting your pension," he says. No longer. "I've let go of that. Being a millionaire now has no allure."

If it were about the money, he could easily be earning more than his current \$2,000-a-month salary pitching in Korea or Mexico, but he prefers playing close to

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home before family and friends. He ticks off other perks: “My chiropractor, my masseuse, a great facility, a front office who cares about us. They promote being silly.”

It’s all part of the evolution of Mark Hamburger.

Shortly after 7 p.m. on a Friday night, a perfect summer evening for baseball, Hamburger stands behind the mound, facing the flag in center field, about to go for his 10th straight victory.

Flanked by two Little Leaguers, Hamburger sways a few times back and forth at the hips, takes two deep breaths, and stands still. One of the Little Leaguers turns to him and says, “You’re going to have a perfect game.”

After the first batter singles to right, the second batter singles to left, the third batter advances the lead runner with a long fly, and the fourth batter bloats a single, driving home Fargo-Moorhead’s first run, Hamburger has thrown a dozen pitches to four batters and is down 1-0 with two runners on and only one out. “That kid was so off,” he thinks.

Privately, he had known it was going to be a tough night. He has an open cut on the inside of his right index finger — right where he grips his split-finger fastball, his best pitch. “It was a test,” he would say afterward.

He passed. He induces the next batter to ground into a double play. Once his team has evened the score, he starts the second by striking out the first two batters on seven pitches and retires the third on a fly to left field.

This camper will be his home after the season, when he plans to practice “tiny living.”

When Hamburger jogs out to the mound to start an inning, his hair flapping up and down, he sometimes steps on the chalked first-base line. Many ballplayers consider that bad luck and hop exaggeratedly over the chalk, but Hamburger professes not to have any superstitions.

“Absolutely none,” he says. Save one. On days he pitches, he brings a two-sided baseball card with him to the ballpark, with a picture of Satchel Paige on one side and Sister Rosalind, the Saints’ nun masseuse, on the other. It’s stashed in his locker at

“The goal now is to be present. Last time I was here, I was picking up the pieces. Now I’m whole.”

the moment.

He watches his team’s at-bats from the top step of the dugout, his hat off, his arms draped over the railing. When a line drive to left with the bases loaded scores two runs, he skips happily over to the dugout entrance to congratulate the two teammates.

After his catcher Tony Caldwell hits a two-run homer, Hamburger dances over to the entrance and organizes his teammates to form a canopy by standing opposite one another and clasping hands for Caldwell to pass under.

Four innings later, he choreographs a slow-motion run from the opposite end of the dugout to celebrate Willie Argo’s two-run homer that stretches his lead to 10-3.

On the mound, Hamburger works quickly and efficiently. He finishes his delivery with his chest tucked toward the ground

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and his right leg poking into the sky.

But he seems distracted by his cap. He takes it off several times and studies it, as though he's wondering whether he has accidentally grabbed a teammate's cap that doesn't fit quite right.

I ask him about this after the game. "Wait a minute, let me see if he's still there," he says and ducks back to his locker. He returns with his hat and shows me a green beetle clinging to the back. "I thought he might have fallen off after I threw a fastball, but he was still there. I had to keep checking.

"I named him Sammy Sosa, but after that guy homered, I figured that wasn't working so I renamed him Randy," after Randy Johnson, the Hall of Fame pitcher whom he idolized growing up.

That settled his luck. The beetle hung on for the ride through the eighth inning.

That's when it stops looking easy for Hamburger. He gives up a home run, then hits a batter with a wild pitch. (When the batter jogs to first, Hamburger apologizes.)

The next batter fouls off three pitches before Hamburger finally gets him to miss, which ends his night. He's thrown 120 pitches, 85 for strikes, fanned eight batters, walked none, and consistently fired his fastball in the low 90s.

He leaves with the score 10-4, which is how it stays to record his 10th consecutive win.

Afterward, the lack of media in the clubhouse reminds Hamburger of the humble level of his success. Only one reporter (yours truly) and two college students enrolled in a sports journalism internship ask to talk to him.

He graciously asks the students their names and shakes their hands. He patiently answers their questions. But he deflects mine about the injury to his cut finger with a laugh. Won't tell me how it happened. Which means there must be a good story there, hinting that I've only scratched the surface with him.

**I**n the dugout on the first day we met, Hamburger smiled when I asked him about being able to pitch again in the major leagues. He likes the idea of it, but is just not sure how or if it will happen.

"The dream is evolving as I go," he says. "Nine years ago, the dream was about getting to the majors. The goal now is to be present. Last time I was here, I was picking up the pieces. Now I'm whole."

That's huge for him, the chance to play whole in his hometown for a first-place team that sells out night after night. Never mind that the stadium fills with 7,410 instead of 45,000 fans. Playing for the Saints is in keeping with his preference for the slower life.

"The competition level is different, sure, but we play awesome baseball here before packed crowds," he says. "I'd like to consider this a big league experience — without the private jet." **CF**

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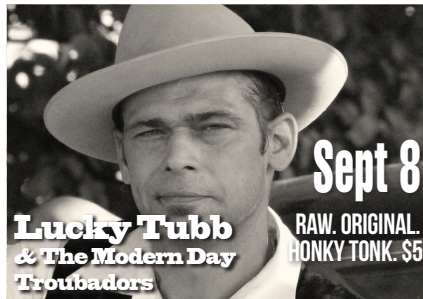
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# DRINK IN THE AFTERNOON

St. Genevieve and the art of snacks and Champagne at any time of day

Poulpe niçoise is just about as approachable as an octopus tentacle could be.



SASHA LANDSKOV

BY MECCA BOS

The best parts of life don't have to begin at five o'clock. Stroll past a bar or bistro in France, and it is likely to be filled with revelers at any time of day.

Even if you've never been to France, St. Genevieve's evocation of a little Gallic bistro is undeniable. The dining room is understated, and chic to the nth degree, with a soft light that envelops everything. As your reflection bounces off the mirrored walls, it's impossible not to feel beautiful here. Your Monday night just became April in Paris; your date is Cary Grant.

While the room is surely très élégant, the real surprise is the lack of pretense. Hosts and servers are decked out in their

most comfortable summer wear — khaki shorts and deck shoes; summer jumpers and straight-to-the-beach sundresses for the ladies. Owner Steven Brown tells his staff to always dress like they're going on a first date. Dress to impress, but don't look like you're trying too hard. It works. Service is comfortably familiar, affable, helpful. You instantly feel that people are happy here. People smile here.

Menu headers are in French, which is lovely if you speak French, but could be off-putting if you do not. So if you, like I do, fall in the latter category, pretend that you are wearing some kind of blinders, and then just simply look off to the left, where the key ingredient is listed, plain as day, all in bold like this: CHICKEN & SHRIMP. See? You don't need to know what "poulet

quasi-étouffée" even means.

The filigreed menu script, excellent service, and bathwater-warm lighting might initially convince you that St. Genevieve is fancy. And in some ways it is. Champagne by the bottle is almost always fancy. It's also almost always simple and good. Read between the lines here at St. Genevieve, and you will come to see the food is just the same: simple and good.

The "tartines" are nothing more than delicious open-faced sandwiches, some of them indeed covered in escargot, roasted oyster mushrooms, and very good Gruyère cheese, but others more familiar. Take the elegant but straightforward BLT, with jowl bacon, lettuce, and tomato; or the ribeye steak with braised mustard greens and little green hoops of pickled ramps. Forget the

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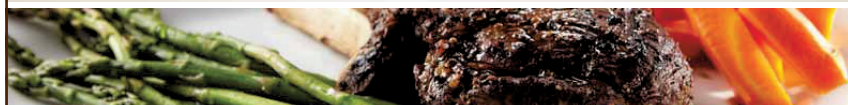
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The whimsical and fun sweet corn sundae

SASHA LANDSKOV

The pommes frites are not the sleek little slivers of fried potato you've come to know from other bistros, but more like McDonald's fries, which is precisely where Brown drew his inspiration. He grew up on McDonald's, just like you and me. If you asked for some ketchup and closed your eyes, you might even think that's what you were having.

A sweet corn sundae comes with popcorn ice cream and popped sorghum that looks for all the world like Barbie-doll-sized popcorn kernels. It's whimsical and fun. Kids can get either shrimp and rice or a grilled cheese plus peas and carrots or French fries. What kind of kid do you have? A shrimp-and-peas kid or a French-fry one? At St. Genevieve, the experience is hers to choose, just as it is yours.

St. Genevieve also does entrees, dishes like pork tenderloin with cheese grits, celeriac, remoulade, and an onion puff. And if you are the kind of person who must have an entree, then you can have one. But I think dining this way (protein-starch-veg) takes away from the very point of St. Genevieve.

Here, life is not about doing the practical thing, or the healthy thing, or the traditional thing. This place is about doing what you please, at whatever time. It's about throwing off the shackles of ordinary life, and looking good while you do it under the butter-colored lights. So order some popcorn ice cream and another glass of bubbles and have only snacks for dinner and be happy, won't you?

Which brings us to the matter of Champagne and wine. For those of us paralyzed by

a lengthy wine list, we know that the more comprehensive the list, the more profound the paralysis. We scan for the things we know and like, feel immediate relief upon finding them, and order. Problem solved. But at St. Genevieve, it would be foolhardy to ignore the bulk of the beautiful list in favor of the familiar. Champagne is almost always a good idea, and here they have a surfeit of it and an equal amount of knowledge. Even more than that, they've got genuine enthusiasm to tell you all about it.

Discover that Crémant is simple wine made in the Champagne tradition outside of Champagne, and typically, happily, costs a few dollars less per glass. Or learn that the Côte des Blancs is a slope that owes its name to the color of the grape that is planted there. Champagnes in this area include the term "blanc de blancs."

And while these things are interesting to know, they're much more delicious to taste.

Life can get drab and even happy hour, the best hour, can begin to seem rote, predictable, and unspecial. Sliders and cheap beer, again? When it's time to infuse things with some elegance, some French, and some bubbles at two in the afternoon, might we suggest St. Genevieve?

Challenge your expectations of a French restaurant, and what you'll find is a place offering something fundamentally straightforward and high quality. Indulge and be reminded that the best parts of life can begin before five. And what a lovely life it can be. ☞

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**CANTERBURY BEER FEST**  
Canterbury Park | 6-10pm  
Sample beers, watch live horse racing,  
dance to live music and grab a bite to eat!

**SUN // AUGUST 14**  
**IN CAHOOTS**  
Red Stag | 2-8pm  
10th annual Red Stag block party and  
collaboration festival

**MON // AUGUST 15**  
**WALKER MUSIC & MOVIES**  
Loring Park | 7pm  
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# A LIST

**FRIDAY** Trekkies celebrate in Minneapolis **P. 29**

**SATURDAY** Food Trucks convene in Northeast **P. 30**

**SUNDAY** Beer collaborations at Red Stag **P. 31**



For "Silver River," artists take inspiration from Maya Lin's sculpture of the Mighty Mississippi.

JONATHON WELLS, MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL

## WEDNESDAY 8/10

### COMEDY

#### JENNY ZIGRINO

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Jenny Zigrino answers the phone. Speaking softly and sweetly, she apologizes. "I'm a little hungover," she admits from her hotel room in Montreal. She was there attending the world-famous Just for Laughs Comedy Festival, and was featured as one of the New Faces. Since her last visit to Minnesota, she has been in two films, *Bad Santa 2* and *Fifty Shades of Black*. She also plans to release a CD this fall. She recorded several shows for that album in order to make it a bit more cohesive. "I do so much crowd work it's hard for me to just do one show where I'm doing all jokes," she says. "It's so tempting for me to talk to the crowd, so I had to get multiple shows." Onstage she still discusses her family, although instead of her mom it's her sister who is the subject of many stories. "I stay away from current events. I

talk about feminism and the pink tax." For those not in the know, the pink tax is "a luxury tax on tampons and pads. Women pay a luxury tax on all our tampons and pads. Apparently it's very luxurious to have your period." 18+; 21+ later shows. \$13-\$22. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

### BARHOPPING

#### THE HOT SPELLING BEE

EASTLAKE CRAFT BREWERY

How well can you spell your favorite Indian eats? If you have confidence that you can correctly spell things like papadum, aloo gobi mutter, and poricha kuzhambu, then this special, extra-spicy addition of Trivia Mafia's beer-fueled spelling bee may be right up your alley. They've teamed up with food truck Hot Indian Foods and Eastlake Craft Brewery for a night of words, brew, and grub. It's free to sign up, and once you clear round one, the

prizes kick in. In the second round, every word spelled correctly scores you a Midtown Global Market dollar. For those who want to rack up dollars faster, in the third round players can elect to spell a word of Indian origin (most will reference Indian cuisine) for a \$5 Midtown Global Market voucher. Free. 7 p.m. (registration at 6:30 p.m.). 920 E. Lake St. #123, Minneapolis; 612-224-9713. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

### COMEDY

#### MARTHA KELLY

ACME COMEDY CO.

"I don't know what I'm doing," admits comedian Martha Kelly, "but I love standup. I love watching it and I love doing it." She first stepped into the national spotlight in 2002 after winning Comedy Central's Laugh Riots contest and being named one of the New Faces at that year's Just for Laughs festival in Montreal. With a string of appearances on all the late-night chat shows, she is currently a series regular on friend Zach Galifianakis' FX series, *Baskets*. Onstage, her near-deadpan delivery is

offset by punchlines that often take a left turn. "You could say my standup is dry," she says, "but I really love goofy comedy and even borderline slapstick. There are a lot of comics you wouldn't describe as dry who I just love." Her stage persona is a natural outgrowth of her offstage personality. "I guess my own sense of humor is based on being self-conscious and shy. I can't do any type of broad comedy. I can't sell it. I can't sell anything." 18+. \$15-\$18. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

## THURSDAY 8/11

### ART/GALLERY

#### SIX YARDS OF MEMORY

SOO VISUAL ARTS CENTER

One of the joys of being a dance writer in the Twin Cities for so many years is having witnessed Ranee Ramaswamy's steady rise. The

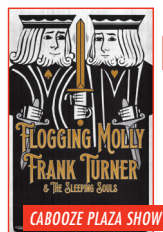
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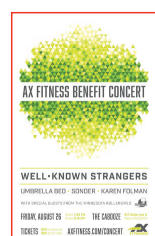
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w/ The River High & Horseplay  
**AUGUST 19**



**CABOOZE & LIVE NATION PRESENT BARONESS**  
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**AUGUST 23**



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**AUGUST 26**

## UPCOMING

8/20 ..... CHIVE NATION PRESENTS **Midwest Madness 2**  
8/25 ..... **Slightly Stoopid Return of the Red Eye Summer 16** w/ SOJA, & UNFORTUNATE YOUTH  
8/26-27 ..... **Cabooze Combat!** AMATEUR BOXING SPORTS SERIES: ROUND 1  
9/1-9/4 ..... **MidWest Live & Loud Punk Rock Fest**  
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9/30 ..... LEOPRESENTS.COM **Reflections Farewell**  
10/25 ..... LEOPRESENTS.COM & CABOOZE PRESENT **Insane Clown Posse: The Riddle Box Tour**

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## A-LIST

### CATS

## MINNEAPOLIS MEOWS WITH THE AMAZING ACRO-CATS!

IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST PUPPET AND MASK THEATRE

Cats generally have little interest in balancing on balls, jumping through hoops, pretending to play in a band, or riding a skateboard. And yet, that is exactly what Amazing Acro-cats do (most of the time). These felines are trained to entertain, and they do so in response to the simple sound of a clicker and a little positive reinforcement. Since the start, team leader Samantha Martin has reached out to shelters, working to train cats and even find them forever homes. See them perform this weekend. \$23; \$33 VIP. 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Monday; 3 p.m. Saturday; 1 and 5 p.m. Sunday. 1500 E. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-721-2535. **Through Monday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**



COURTESY OF ACRO-CATS

### CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

dancer and choreographer has expanded the cultural relevance and technical poetry of the Indian dance form Bharatanatyam through her work with her Ragamala Dance Company. She's also nurtured two daughters (who are critically lauded in their own right), countless dancers, and an entire arts community in the form. Her dedication and artistry have not gone unnoticed. The recipient of a cornucopia of awards and grants, Ramaswamy was also appointed last year by President Obama to the National Council on the Arts. Local photographer Ed Bock had been photographing her since 1990. The images Bock shot have appeared on posters and flyers, and in magazines and newspapers around the globe. Here, many of them are silkscreened onto a sari — a fitting tribute, to be sure. There will be an opening reception Thursday, August 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. 2909 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-2263. **Through August 27 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

### DANCE

## SUMMER FIELD WORK

SILVERWOOD PARK

Let's try this again. Rain has been interfering with the performance of choreographer Laurie Van Wieren's site-specific work in Silverwood Park.

So fingers crossed that no downpours are predicted for this rescheduled date. A stellar cast — Anna Marie Shogren, Angharad Davies, Deborah Jinza Thayer, Corinne Caouette — bring their distinctly downtown dance aesthetic to the park's lush prairies and forests. And Van Wieren, who has created work on frozen lakes and in dilapidated studios, embraces the inspiring aspects of nature here. Free. 7 p.m. 2500 County Rd. E W., St. Anthony; 763-694-7707. **—CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

### ART/GALLERY

## ILYA NATARIUS: CREATIVE COMBUSTION

GAMUT GALLERY

Minneapolis-based photographer Ilya Natarius strives for honesty in his portraiture. In his new exhibition, "Creative Combustion," opening Thursday at Gamut Gallery, he turns his truth-seeking lens to those in the arts community. Eighteen men and women from across the spectrum of visual and performing arts reveal their fonts of inspiration, be it a physical place or cognitive spark. Minnesota notables like Tricia Khutoretsky of Public Functionary, Joan Vorderbruggen of Hennepin Theatre Trust, and dancer/choreographer Judith Howard are among the subjects. Natarius is loyal to 35mm film and printmaking, and his



Gamut Gallery hosts  
a burst of creativity.



JUDITH HOWARD

images capture a complicated concept in a straightforward and unflashy way. A companion art book explores the psychological origins of creativity and the subjects' own narratives about what prompts them to make art. This exhibition also includes musical performances by Adam Conrad and members of Improvestra on opening night, and a CD-release party by rock outfit Qaanaaq at the exhibition's finale. Natarius graduated from the University of St. Thomas and works as an engineer by day. The opening reception on Thursday, August 11, runs from 7 to 11 p.m. (admission is \$5), and the exhibit finale will take place Friday, September 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. (entry is \$10 or \$15 with a CD purchase). 717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4327. **Through September 2 —ERICA RIVERA**

FRIDAY 8/12

#### CONVENTION

### STAR TREK: 50 YEAR MISSION TOUR

HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS

In the narration that opened most episodes of the original *Star Trek* series, viewers were told of a five-year mission to explore the cosmos. While the inaugural series fell short of the declared timeframe, running only three seasons (1966-1969), the mythos has endured even beyond the scope envisioned by its storied creator, Gene Roddenberry, spawning a successful film series, numerous television spinoffs, and a mind-boggling array of merchandise. The driving force behind this remarkable popularity is a legion of dedicated fans, known as Trekkies (or Trekkers), whose devotion to the *Star*

*Trek* universe will be celebrated during the Minneapolis stop on the *Star Trek*: 50 Year Mission Tour. Though *Star Trek* conventions are nothing new, this latest gathering commemorates a half-century since the original series aired, and heralds the resilience of the franchise, as evidenced by the recent release of the latest film, *Star Trek: Beyond*, and a new television series slated to premiere in 2017. Special guests from *Star Trek*'s various incarnations will be on hand, foremost among them the iconic original Captain Kirk, William Shatner. Other entertaining diversions include memorabilia auctions, a costume contest, karaoke party, *Trek* trivia, and a stage show melding Rat Pack shenanigans with *Star Trek* sensibilities. For fans, though, the real draw is simply immersing in the sci-fi lore along with fellow Trekkies. For tickets, the full lineup, and more info, visit [creationent.com/cal/50yr\\_minn.htm](http://creationent.com/cal/50yr_minn.htm). \$40-\$70 daily; \$90 three-day pass. 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-370-1234. **Through Sunday —BRAD RICHASON**

#### READING

### FREYA MANFRED & KAO KALIA YANG

BANFILL-LOCKE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Two powerhouse authors read from recent work this Friday. Award-winning poet Freya Manfred, who has penned eight books, is joined by Hmong-American writer Kao Kalia Yang, whose recent book, *The Song Poet*, examines the struggle, hope, and beauty of immigrant and refugee experiences. "Reading Yang's book made me realize a big theme of a legacy and inspiration from these authors'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 ►

**The Riverside Swing Band**

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**WEDNESDAY**  
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CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

fathers,” says Clarence White, who curates the event with Margaret Hasse in partnership with the Anoka County Library. “It’s really strong, as well as the idea of wedding the culture that we usually identify as Minnesotan with a newer powerful Minnesota story.” Free. 7:30 p.m. 6666 E. River Rd., Fridley; 763-574-1850. —SHEILA REGAN

SATURDAY 8/13

## FOOD

NORTHEAST  
FOOD TRUCK RALLY

ABLE SEEDHOUSE &amp; BREWERY

Last June, the food trucks descended on Uptown. This weekend, they’re headed to northeast Minneapolis for an afternoon of eats and beer. Twenty-five restaurants on wheels will be in attendance this afternoon, so you can gorge yourself on many options, or treat yourself to something special. Trucks include the Moral Omnivore, Tot Boss, Market BBQ, Butcher Salt, and Milk Mart Ice Cream. There

will be plenty of beer as well, as the event takes place at a brewery. Music throughout the day includes Eleganza, the Mighty Mofos, Fury Things, Hardcore Crayons, and Nato Coles & the Blue Diamond Band. Free. Noon to 7 p.m. 1121 Quincy St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-405-4642. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

## BARHOPPING

## BOCCE TOURNAMENT 2016

MINNEAPOLIS TOWN HALL BREWERY

Great lawn games are rarely measured by physical exertion. To the contrary, most require the bare minimum of sweat and are optimally enjoyed with friends while leisurely imbibing a beverage or two on a summer day. That said, Town Hall Brewery’s annual Bocce Tournament is likely to stoke the competitive fires of even the most reluctant of athletes thanks to a generous \$1,000 winner’s payout. Transformed from pavement to lawn with the laying of hundreds of pounds of sod, Town Hall Brewery’s patio will host the tournament as teams of four play three games in a four-hour Saturday session. The top eight teams will then have the honor of advancing to



Beer and bocce this weekend at Town Hall

COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

the double-elimination rounds held on Sunday. Throughout the tournament, competitors can stay energized with ongoing food and drink specials, a necessity in the heat of battle. Even those teams that succumb to an early

defeat on the bocce lawn will have the chance to walk away winners courtesy of the brewery’s frequent prize raffles featuring libations and various swag. Spectators and players alike will further appreciate the picnic-like atmosphere

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ERIC MELZER

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#### ART/MUSEUM

### SILVER RIVER

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM

For more than a decade, sculptor Maya Lin has been abstracting bodies of water — rivers, primarily — in silver to bring greater public attention, with irony and aesthetics, to their beauty and environmental degradation. Lin's *Silver River — Mississippi* is the focus of this exhibition. Responses to that work from Minnesota artists, in a variety of media, reflect on the Mighty Miss, from its iconic status (on par with the Nile and the Amazon) to the way civilization has used its waters. Unsurprisingly, many of the pieces focus on the river's manipulation, whether through pollution or locks and dams. But also on view are pieces that demonstrate how the Mississippi continues to inspire and shine a light on cultural and economic renewal. 333 E. River Rd., Minneapolis; 612-625-9494. **Through February 12, 2017 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

SUNDAY 8/14

#### FESTIVAL

### RED STAG BLOCK PARTY

RED STAG SUPPERCLUB

What would a collaboration between two local breweries taste like? At this outdoor party, organized by the Growler and Red Stag, 12 Twin Cities beer-makers will pair up and square off in a very special brew-off. Teams include August Schell Brewing Company and Bauhaus Brew Labs,

Summit Brewing Company and Bang Brewing, Surly Brewing Company and Bent Paddle Brewing Co., Fulton Beer and Modist Brewing Company, Dangerous Man Brewing Co. and Indeed Brewing Company, and Fair State Brewing Cooperative and Sociable Cider Werks. Sample all six brews and select your favorite with the help of FairVote Minnesota. While you drink, entertainment will be provided by Night Moves, Mark Mallman, Sims, Black Market Brass, and Farewell Milwaukee while Foxy Tann emcees. Some proceeds from the event will go toward the charity selected by the winning brewers. Free. 2 to 8 p.m. 509 First Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-767-7766. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

MONDAY 8/15

#### FILM

### ANNUAL OUTDOOR MOVIES SERIES

BRIT'S PUB

Tonight, Brit's annual outdoor film series kicks off. For the next four weeks, movies will screen each Monday night at the downtown bar and restaurant. Bring a blanket, as audiences will be sprawling out on the grassy rooftop area, which typically hosts lawn bowling. Opening night will feature *Eddie the Eagle*, a heartwarming comedy that follows the real-life story of Eddie Edwards, a Brit ski jumper who managed to make it to the 1973 Olympics despite huge obstacles. Other films scheduled include *Suffragette* (August 22), *Pride* (August 29), and James Bond flick *Spectre* (September 5). During each evening, revelers will find drink specials on Strongbow and Amstel Light. Free. 8:30 p.m. 1110 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-3908. **Mondays through September 5 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

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- AUG. 27** Ron Lamprect, Mary Jo Pehl, Isaac Witty, Chloe Radcliffe, Mike Lester
- SEPT. 3** No Show
- SEPT. 9 & 10** Miss Shannon, Boima Freeman, Courtney Baka, Phil Kolas, JD Provorse



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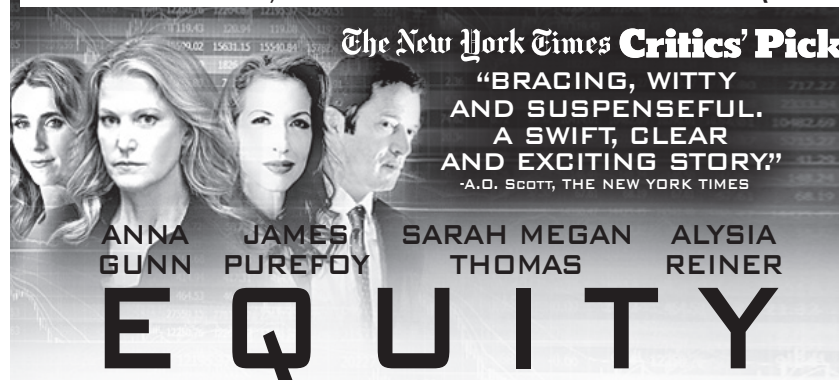
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# FREAK SHOW

The inmates are running the asylum in *Suicide Squad*



Common,  
Jared Leto, and  
Margot Robbie

CLAY ENOS/ TM & (C) DC COMICS

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

Most comic-book movies are, at heart, about the nature of heroism. Superman is born into it, Batman chooses it, Wolverine has it thrust upon him. Viewed through that lens, *Suicide Squad* must have the genre's most alluring premise in years. The villains are the heroes in David Ayer's ensemble piece.

Unfortunately, the film takes a great "What if?" question and fails to answer it in a compelling way. Was the Riddler not available?

Known officially as Task Force X, the squad is the brainchild of one Amanda Waller (Viola Davis), a governmental higher-up who dreams of purging the homeland of terrorism both domestic and supernatural by co-opting our most dangerous citizens. With a motley crew of "metahumans" locked away at a black site prison in Louisiana, she proposes extorting them into serving on the front line of her battle. Chief among these would-be pawns are Deadshot (Will Smith) and Harley Quinn (Margot Rob-

bie), though there's also the archaeologist whose body is sometimes possessed by a centuries-old, all-powerful witch named Enchantress (Cara Delevingne).

The ostensible promise of a film led by such a rogues' gallery is something edgy and irreverent, a corrective to the why-so-serious strain of superhero movies we're so often bludgeoned with. *Batman v Superman*'s funereal vibe is nowhere to be found here, replaced by loud colors and louder characters. Joker's maniacal laugh, Harley Quinn's sexed-up viciousness, Deadshot's lethal accuracy — if anything, *Suicide Squad* should suffer from an abundance of personalities that can't be contained by its two-hour runtime.

That's not the case. We don't have time to properly get acquainted with either this world or its inhabitants. No one's asking for each character to be introduced in their own standalone films à la the Avengers, but the brief primers on our (anti)heroes set to rock anthems of yore aren't as captivating as you might hope. Most have tissue-thin backstories — Deadshot's a ruthless hit man whose emotional complexity is signaled by

the fact that he (gasp!) loves his daughter — while others have none at all. (All I can tell you about Killer Croc is that Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, who thrived as Mr. Eko on *Lost*, deserved a meatier role to sink his teeth into.)

This doesn't stop Robbie from going all out with Harley Quinn's mix of naïveté and bloodlust, and in her performance the film finds its energetic center. Described as "a whole lotta pretty and a whole lotta crazy" by one of the unfortunate guards tasked with handling her, she's like an evil Barbie come to life: runny makeup, blond pigtails, and a pistol whose chambers cycle between the words love and hate.

Jared Leto's Joker, conversely, is Hot Topic edgy rather than genuinely unnerving — you almost expect him to yell "It's not a phase, mom!" The actor had no choice but to take the iconic baddie in a different psychological direction than his gone-too-soon predecessor Heath Ledger did in *The Dark Knight*. But this latest iteration of the sociopathic clown is too thinly written for Leto's showy performance to feel deserved.

He's joined by the likes of El Diablo (Jay

## SUICIDE SQUAD

directed by David Ayer  
area theaters, now playing

Hernandez), a reluctant firestarter whose facial tattoos and violent history as an L.A. gang-banger belie his nascent pacifism, and Captain Boomerang (Jai Courtney), an Aussie who... throws boomerangs.

The normal world commingles with the supernatural here in strange, unremarked ways. Not only is there the "extra-dimensional" character Enchantress, but there's also a sword belonging to the enigmatic Katana (Karen Fukuhara) that contains the souls of all those who've been killed with it. This latter fact is mentioned offhand and readily accepted by all; not a single character questions or even seems surprised by it.

This is part of what makes *Suicide Squad* both unique and out of step with its genre peers. For better and often for worse, this is a comic-book movie in a way that Christopher Nolan's Batman movies were — it's weird, obnoxious, and so tonally inconsistent that we lose sight of what it's striving for almost as quickly as it does. **B-**



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# A LIFE IN THE AUDIENCE

Soon to retire, Star Tribune critic Graydon Royce reflects on his years covering theater

BY JAY GABLER

“I really love newspapers,” says Graydon Royce. “[Working at one has been] really, really good for me.” He’s had what he describes as several different careers, all at what locals often call simply “the Minneapolis paper.”

After spending the better part of four decades there, Royce is retiring from the Star Tribune, where the most recent of his various roles has been that of longtime theater critic and arts reporter.

A native of Mound, Royce landed his first job at what was then the Minneapolis Tribune in 1980, when he became a copyeditor on the night desk. He made his way through various positions at the paper, and in 2000, he moved to the theater desk as his primary focus.

That put him in a front-row seat for a period of enormous growth and change. “There was the big building boom of mid-decade. The Guthrie’s expansion is something that will probably take them another five to 10 years to grow into.”

Royce has also seen many success stories beyond the brick-and-mortar. “The emergence of Theatre Latte Da,” for example, “from a company that was just a ragtag one-off group in the late ’90s doing shows down at the Bryant-Lake Bowl to where they are today has really been fun to watch.”

Overall, Royce praises the scene’s increased diversity. “Mu Performing Arts is one of the great success stories of the last 17 years, my tenure in doing this. Pillsbury House has [also] become more of a presence.”

Theater news hasn’t all been happy, though. “Jeune Lune was one of the unfortunate departures from our landscape,” says Royce, who acknowledges that he also misses the old Guthrie. “I liked that building, and I liked the old Guthrie Lab. I know it’s the Lab Theater now, but it’s just not quite the same.”

You might think that a big-city arts reporter would have a long brag list of celebrities he’s talked to, but Royce shrugs that off. “Interviews are... interviews.



TOM WALLACE

You get to go home and tell someone that you talked to Neil Simon.”

His most memorable experiences, instead, have been among audiences: watching gripping shows like *Topdog/Underdog* (at Mixed Blood) and the Tony Kushner premiere *The Intelligent Homosexual’s Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures* (at the Guthrie).

One especially moving moment occurred when Ten Thousand Things produced the musical *Ragtime* in 2005. “I saw it at a women’s correctional institution,” remembers Royce. “When that show ended, the women in that room leapt to their feet as though they were pulled by some force other than themselves. I can still see that scene. I can still see the faces of those women.”

Though Royce officially retires on September 2, it will be a slow goodbye — he’ll continue to contribute to the Star Tribune’s reviews and features, just to a lesser extent. “It’s kind of like a methadone program,” he explains. “[You can’t] leave the hard stuff cold turkey.”

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# MEET THE ANTI-PIRATES

Inside Haulix, the Minnesota-based tech startup that helps indie musicians level the playing field

BY JERARD FAGERBERG

In 2001, Matt Brown was a web developer with a stubborn death-metal habit. Back then, he supplemented his cubicle hours by running MetalReview.com, a blog where he'd review CDs and interview headbangers in corpse paint. It was a prolific hobby, but it was only that until the Great Recession struck.

Laid off from his consulting job, the Winona-born Brown turned to Metal Review full-time. He didn't see a career in blogging, but he sensed there was money in his overstuffed mailbox. In 2007, he'd had the notion to create a digital music distribution site, and he even launched a pilot application called Leak Secure. With no other passions to pursue and a P.O. box overflowing with CDs and press releases, Brown arrived at an idea.

"I was going to the P.O. box on a weekly basis, and packages full of promotional CDs would literally fall out," he says. "Every week, I was entering hundreds of these into our system so that our writers could listen to the music and write about it, and I was like, 'Wow, there's gotta be a better way of doing this. Why not have someone upload the music to a central place once and then invite people to come download it?'"

The successor to Leak Secure was christened Haulix. It started in 2009 as just Brown and a software developer he solicited on Craigslist, but now Haulix is a preferred international distribution resource for folks in the music biz. The company boasts roughly 1,000 clients, including SideOneDummy Records, eOne Music Group, and fellow Minnesota enterprise Rhymesayers Entertainment. Each month, Haulix blasts out more than 2 million emails to worldwide media outlets, and it does it all from a tiny 28th-floor apartment in downtown Minneapolis.

Haulix's most seductive feature is its digital watermarking service. Record labels and self-distributed artists send thousands of advance copies to various tastemakers — journalists, bloggers, radio pros, podcasters, etc. If the songs get leaked to the internet, it can torpedo a band's album cycle. So services like Haulix can be integral to protecting small-scale business. That's why Lance



Haulix founder  
Matt Brown

GINA REIS

King, owner of St. Paul indie-metal label Nightmare Records, switched to Haulix back in 2012.

"Anti-piracy is really important before a release date more than ever," he says. "[Digital distribution] has the ability to be extremely exploited, to the point where it crushes an album's survivability, or worse, the band's financial prospects. Physical distribution and product cost a lot of money to make, so if you undermine the value of that before the street date by everyone having a digital copy of it, you shoot yourself in the foot."

The watermarking works by embedding inaudible bits of data into songs. These create "fingerprints" that are unique to each recipient. If an album is uploaded to a file-sharing service, Haulix can help musicians track the source of the leak, providing a name, location, IP address, and even the time of piracy. This allows the senders to blacklist offenders, and Haulix will even issue automatic takedown notices to help

stem future transgressions. Though pirates have ways of evading many forms of watermarking, Haulix's method is so robust it can actually be tracked in copies that have been recorded off speakers and uploaded as new MP3 files.

While secure file distribution has been the backbone of Haulix's success, it's not necessarily the blueprint for its future. The company released its latest version Monday — its third major revision to the platform — and there was no major update to the watermarking technology. Instead, Brown and his team focused on making it easier to put together press releases and send them out alongside the promotional music. Publicists typically use services like Constant Contact or Campaign Monitor to create a press release, then they'll send out music files separately through Haulix. With his latest update, Brown is touting a "one-stop-shop" for global distribution.

"[Piracy] is still a huge problem. It's doubled since 2008, and it's set to double

between now and 2020," he says. "We used to think the most important thing was the watermarking, but we've realized that it's more than that. [Users] want a system that's really easy to use to send out their promo invitations and their press releases."

Haulix now operates like a sales/marketing suite similar to Salesforce or HubSpot. It allows users to not only send out press releases and promo material, but also to accurately track how people open the emails, interact with the files, and click the links. Brown estimates the new version will double or triple his firm's monthly email output, which should help make Haulix a more recognizable name in the music industry.

"It's not just a new coat of paint," Brown says. "We have a full reporting system. Every mailing [clients] do will be organized as a campaign, and it'll track all the opens and the clicks, and they'll see pie graphs of who has actually opened and consumed the music, and they can easily send out reminder emails."

For an indie label, this can mean the difference between contracting a marketing firm or hiring a full-time press department and doing the work themselves. That's why Haulix has been so valuable to Nightmare Records.

When King started Nightmare in 1990, there were only a handful of glossy magazines and radio stations to mail physical promo to. It was expensive but doable. Now, with the glut of viable blogs, podcasts, and websites springing onto the internet, King couldn't even afford the postage. Nor would he be able to bankroll the full-time marketer to manage the accounts.

"You can set up a really great promo in literally 10 minutes if you have the elements ready," King says of Haulix. "It makes life even easier to promote things, and that's what technology is all about. Anyone can use it, and that helps even the playing field a little bit."

Though it's still much smaller than industry leaders the likes of CD Baby, TuneCore, and ReverbNation, which number their customers in the millions, Haulix has an advantage in feeling as independent as the clients it serves. Six years after its inception, it still lists just six employees, only



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## MUSIC

two of them full-time, and their modus operandi is built totally off feedback from fellow bootstrappers like King.

That's why, instead of fleeing for the startup haven of Silicon Valley, Brown decided to anchor Haulix in Minneapolis — a city where self-sufficiency is a cardinal virtue among musicians and labels.

"There's a trend that, if you want to start a 'cool' tech company, you've gotta be on the West Coast," Brown says. "But I'm proud that we're able to stay here. I was able to

bootstrap this company that started with \$800 to \$1,000. We didn't have to take any investor money, and we've built up a really nice, profitable company. Aside from the snow, this is an all right place to be." **CP**

**Correction:** Due to an editing error, last week's article about the Viking Bar incorrectly identified Steve Kaul as one of the venue's music bookers. The booking team consists of Jackson Buck, Chris Mozena, and Jesse Brood of Nobool Presents. We regret the error.

## CRITICS' PICKS

### CASE/LANG/VEIRS

MINNESOTA ZOO, WEDNESDAY 8.10

It was k.d. lang's idea to recruit two then-acquaintances — Neko Case and Laura Veirs — to form a band. The resulting Americana-inclined supertrio issued their eponymous debut album in January, and it's a sublime collaborative effort that shines even brighter than the sum of its (already golden) parts. Torch-singing cowgirl lang, punk-weaned turned twangy avant-eclectic Case, and folk-laced alt-pop/rocker Veirs complement each other, allowing all three personalities to blossom before drifting back into the exquisite mix produced by Veirs' husband, Tucker Martine. The opening "Atomic Number" lets them exchange lines then harmonize while dark, alt-country melodrama lurks, and the Tosca String Quartet adds a piquant edge. The smoldering "Blue Fires" features lang's whispering, sighing, soaring lead. Case is coolly reserved as she falls apart on the folk-rocker "Delirium." Veirs ignites the catchy "Best Kept Secret," whose horns evoke swinging London while zinging strings flirt with psychedelia. Like the Traveling Wilburys supergroup that reportedly inspired them, CIV avoid clashing egos and grand statements, instead rejoicing in one another's abilities for a truly serendipitous union. Andy Shauf opens. \$73-\$103. 7:30 p.m. 13000 Zoo Blvd., Apple Valley; 952-432-9000. —**RICK MASON**

### EAUX CLAIRE

FOSTER FARMS, FRIDAY 8.12 & SATURDAY 8.13

Just entering its second year, the Eau Claire Music & Arts Festival already has established a reputation as a progressive, thoughtfully organized event promising a deep lineup of diverse artists and unexpected collaborations. That's largely thanks to Eau Claire founders Justin Vernon, Eau Claire native and leader of the band Bon Iver, and Aaron Dessner of the National. The 2016 fest crams more than 50 bands onto multiple stages on an expansive site along the Chippewa River just outside Eau Claire, a burgeoning music and arts scene

roughly 90 minutes east of the Twin Cities. This year's lineup ranges far and wide among genres and generations. A very brief overview: Deafheaven, James Blake, Kill the Vultures, So Percussion, the Staves, Beach House, Erykah Badu, Jenny Lewis, Mavis Staples, Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats, Vince Staples. Of particular note: a Bon Iver set of all new material; Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers performing *The Way It Is* album; Japan's Cornelius performing his 1997 breakthrough album *Fantasma*; and an all-star performance of Grateful Dead tunes inspired by *Day of the Dead*, the recent tribute album that was the brainchild of the National's Dessner brothers. Camping and many other details are available at [eauxclaires.com](http://eauxclaires.com). \$90-\$169. 3443 Crescent Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

—**RICK MASON**

### SUMMER SET

SOMERSET AMPHITHEATER, FRIDAY 8.12, SATURDAY 8.13, AND SUNDAY 8.14

This year's Summer Set Music & Camping Festival will feature headlining sets from dubstep god Skrillex, exploding Chicago MC Chance the Rapper, and tubthumping EDM maestro Bassnectar. Experimental art-pop mastermind Grimes and trap-rap king Fetty Wap are among other big names set to play supporting sets in Somerset, Wisconsin, about 35 miles northeast of the Twin Cities. Other than Bassnectar, who's performed at the ever-growing EDM carnival three years running, the main acts this year are new to the Summer Set stage. It'll be a rare chance to see Chance the Rapper collab live with the Social Experiment, as well as the first time any eight-time Grammy winner has appeared (Skrillex; remember, the dance music categories count). Other notables include party-starting DJ Steve Aoki, rapper Logic, future-bass producer Marshmello, Minnesota hip-hop godfathers Atmosphere, and electro-instrumental rockers STS9. The fest promises "special surprise collaborations" in honor of its five-year anniversary. Does that mean Chance will hop on a Grimes track? Maybe Fetty Wap and Skrillex will finally create the trap-dubstep fusion we've

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sat : august 13

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mon : august 15

8pm : the roe family singers  
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 12



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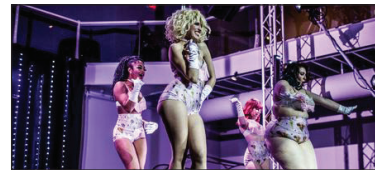
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been waiting for. Either way, Summer Set remains the premier Midwestern festival for folks who love EDM and molly. Camping and many other details are available at [summersetfestival.com](http://summersetfestival.com). \$89.50 single-day; \$224.50 three-day passes. 715 Spring St., Somerset, Wisconsin. —JARED HEMMING

## MIXED BLOOD MAJORITY

LORING PARK, MONDAY 8.15

Despite their many local connections, it's hard to compare experimental hip-hop group Mixed Blood Majority to many other bands in the Twin Cities (or anywhere else for that matter). The trio of Kill the Vultures' Crescent Moon, No Bird Sing's Joe Horton, and Doomtree producer Lazerbeak come with an angular, nocturnal sound, though it's not just Lazerbeak's production that makes MBM unique. There's also Crescent Moon's and Horton's headstrong verses, which address topics including race, written with brutal and even bleak honesty ("I'm grateful, thankful master made me half white / I know I'm lucky that he's that nice, right?"). With their 2013 self-titled album and last year's noisier *Insane World*, they proved to have a more developed sound than the term "side project," which is often applied to the crew, suggests. This free show is part of the Walker Art Center's Summer Music & Movies series at Loring Park; MBM's set will be followed by a screening of the first *Wayne's World*. Party on. Free. 7 p.m. 1382 Willow St., Minneapolis; 612-370-4929. —MICHAEL MADDEN

## DEFTONES

MYTH, TUESDAY 8.16

There are many impressive things about the influential Sacramento band Deftones, but the most impressive might be their sheer endurance. Their latest album, April's *Gore*, keeps them locked in at the forefront of modern rock music. Since forming in 1988, the band have honed a dynamic swirl of a sound that's evolved with modern technology, one that's ultimately more about texture than riffs. (That's not to say they don't have countless kick-ass riffs — they do!) First emerging in the mid-'90s with a more uniformly aggressive style, frontman Chino Moreno & co. have fearlessly incorporated various styles, broadening the scope of the alt-metal subgenre in the process. They've covered Sade, given high praise to Morrissey, and started fusing such disparate elements as screaming and lush shoegaze guitar passages long before bands like Deafheaven would become known for such blending. Any of Deftones' albums could be considered their best, and *Gore* is no exception. \$51.25. 8 p.m. 3090 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood; 651-779-6984. —MICHAEL MADDEN

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## SAVAGE LOVE

# Sex as Sport

Love advice from  
sports writer Dan Savage



Dan Savage

**D**ear readers: I'm on vacation for the next three weeks — but you'll still be getting a new column every week, all of them written by Dan Savage, none of them written by me.

Dan Savage is a sports writer and the assistant director of digital content for OrlandoMagic.com. He has covered six NBA finals and 10 NBA All-Star Games; appeared on CBS, ESPN, NBA TV, and *First Take*; and been published at ESPN.com, CBS.com, and NBA.com. This is Dan's first time giving sex-and-relationship advice.

"Other sports writers often tell me they enjoyed reading my latest column," Dan Savage told me in an email, "but when they show me the article, it's one of your columns. The joke is going to be on them this time around when it's actually my advice!"

*I'm a 36-year-old bisexual female. I've been dating my nice Midwestern boyfriend for about four and a half years. Within the first few dates, I brought up nonmonogamy. I was pretty sure from past experiences that long-term monogamy wasn't going to be for me. I get bored, I like attention, and I love the chase. He was against it. I thought, okay, we have a lot of other positive stuff going for us, and maybe he would reconsider in the future. So I brought up opening up the relationship again. My thought is I could get what I need/want and get my engine revving again, and hopefully bring that excitement and spark back to our relationship, but he doesn't think he could handle the idea of me with someone else. I don't think I can handle the relationship as it is now, though, and this was my suggestion to try to make it stronger. I feel like I've already ended the relationship just by bringing this up. Are we doomed?*

A GIRL HAS NEEDS

**Your question** reminds me of a topic that's currently top of mind in my profession: NBA free agency. In the basketball world, it's the time of year when teams can go after the best available prospects not under contract and offer them a deal to join their team. Organizations heavily vet these players, talking to their former teammates, coaches, and others to make sure that their values match up. There's nothing worse than being locked into a

five-year guaranteed contract with a guy who doesn't fit with your franchise. Actually, on second thought, there is — getting married to a guy who doesn't share the same relationship goals and values.

If your boyfriend is someone who has no interest in open relationships — and from all indications, he doesn't — odds are he's never going to be happy in that type of situation. And if you're never going to be happy with monogamy, then you need to find someone whose values match your own. Unfortunately, some people are destined to play man-to-(wo)man, while others are more satisfied in a 2-3 zone.

*I've been hooking up with a good friend for about a year. We're both single, and he lives in another state but we have really great sex whenever he's here. One of the things I've always admired about him is his eco-conscious lifestyle...which includes showering only about once a week to save water. His BO is pretty unoffensive, but I find that most times we hook up, I get a raging UTI within a day or two. It's happened enough times that I'm wondering if his infrequent washing could be allowing bacteria to live on his junk, causing my infections. Is that possible? Do I need to have a talk with him about washing more frequently/thoroughly?*

HURTS TO PEE

**The simple answer** is yes, HTP. It's great to have an eco-conscious lifestyle, but not at the expense of your urinary tract. If he cares about you as much as he does about the environment, then after a quick chat, he'll probably focus a little more on his personal hygiene. Especially if you explain to him that the overuse of antibiotics contributes to creating antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which can cause issues for the entire planet.

Follow Dan Savage, assistant director of digital content for OrlandoMagic.com, on Twitter @Dan\_Savage.

[mail@savagelove.net](mailto:mail@savagelove.net)

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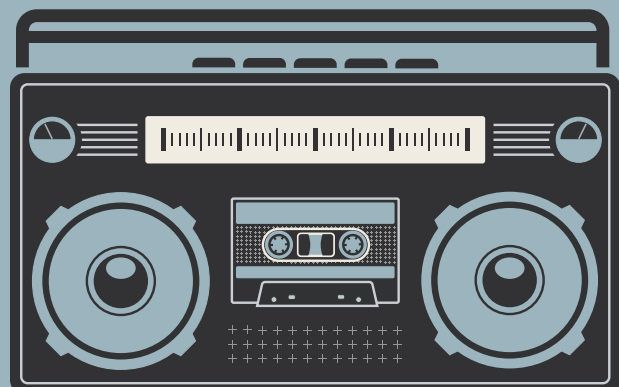
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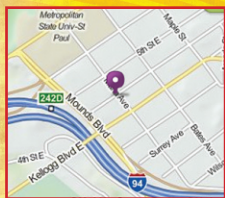


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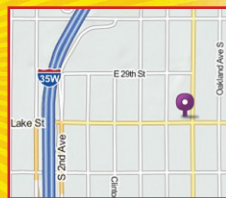
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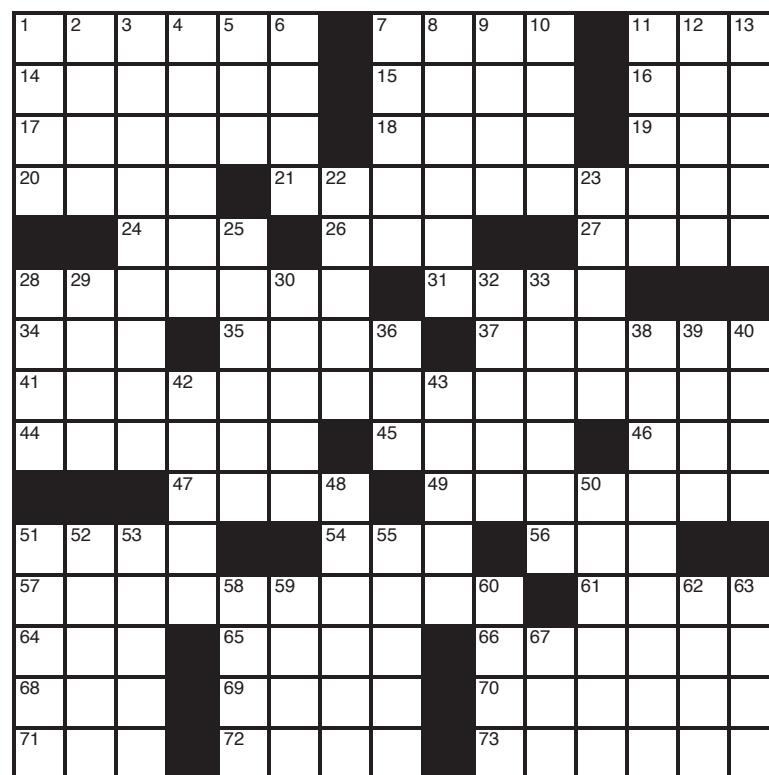
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### RED HEADS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

#### Across

- 1 Made a choice on Tinder
- 7 Way off in the distance
- 11 Billionaire's plaything
- 14 Tone deaf  
person's feature
- 15 Red sauce brand
- 16 Make a major blunder
- 17 House with  
a helipad, maybe
- 18 Skeleton vehicle
- 19 Eggs in nigiri sushi
- 20 Question of time
- 21 Everything, with "the"
- 24 Application for  
barbecued meat
- 26 Safety's takeaway: Abbr.
- 27 Caustic chemicals
- 28 More elevated
- 31 Beer maker's need
- 34 Bad time to start  
shopping, say
- 35 Instruction part
- 37 Booty holders
- 41 Refrain from retaliation
- 44 Golfer Mark
- 45 Fiddle relative
- 46 Turning down word
- 47 She plays Talisa on  
"Game of Thrones"
- 49 "The Miser" playwright
- 51 Society's worst
- 54 Catcher, in baseball  
scorekeeping
- 56 Egg container
- 57 Classic MMORPG that  
takes place in Britannia

- 61 Sporty Pontiacs
- 64 "Only kidding!"
- 65 Horse color
- 66 Some people do it  
for kicks
- 68 Employ
- 69 \_\_\_ facto
- 70 Greek stone semicircular  
bench
- 71 Pricing word
- 72 Jam bands play  
a lot of them
- 73 "Adios"

#### Down

- 1 Worry (over)
- 2 World peace, famously
- 3 Meddle (with)
- 4 Carver's commodity
- 5 Have wings
- 6 Scribbled
- 7 Light crime?
- 8 Developed, as a habit
- 9 Former CIA spy Philip
- 10 Sci-fi author Rucker
- 11 California governor  
Brown
- 12 Wear away
- 13 Bit of hair
- 22 New face in  
the cube farm
- 23 Make a few changes
- 25 Gastropub
- 28 Rocker/actor Jared
- 29 Fallopian tube traveler
- 30 Actor Embry
- 32 Allergic response
- 33 Kind of pasta

- 36 Particular attitude,  
for short
- 38 New York city whose  
name means "beyond  
the pines"
- 39 ACL injury
- 40 Kind of terrier
- 42 Author activist Wolf
- 43 "\_\_\_ of Athens"
- 48 "Thought it would  
never happen"
- 50 "Same here"
- 51 Vampire's bedtime
- 52 Seal the deal
- 53 Say
- 55 Port authorities?
- 58 New Zealand natives
- 59 "Unh-uh"
- 60 Barely squeezes (out)
- 62 Óscar's other
- 63 First Samoan inducted in  
the NFL Hall of Fame
- 67 Big name in body sprays

#### Last Week's Answer







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